Evening Standard Magazine 21/08/2015

ES Magazine

E20 VISION
THE CAPITAL'S NEW SWEET SPOT

THE OTHER BECKHAM
LAURA CRAIK MEETS DAVID'S LITTLE SISTER

SPECIAL Ks
KANYE'S LONDON CREW

TOTES AMAISIE

How Ms Williams hit the big time

PANTENE

SHOW OFF A BRAID *not breakage*

WITHOUT THE RIGHT CONDITIONING BRAIDS SHOW OFF BREAKAGE. TRY PANTENE, THE WORLD'S #1 CONDITIONER* TO DEEPLY RESTORE HAIR, SO IT'S PERFECT - EVEN IN A BRAID.

*P&G calculation based on Nielsen sales information July 2013 - June 2014

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SEVEN DAYS

21-27 AUGUST

This week's capital outings

Edited by **Samuel Fishwick**

FRIDAY

COLONY CLUB

Our Country's Good (right), the story of early British settlers in Australia, opens at the National Theatre, with music composed by Welsh national treasure Cerys Matthews. Until 17 October. Tickets from £15 *(nationaltheatre.org.uk)*

SATURDAY

MANNY CURE

Selfridges makes some noise for its new Kenzo store with a video installation, breakdancing troupe and an afternoon set from Jay Z's personal mixmaster DJ Manny Norté in its first-floor contemporary space, all in collaboration with New York culture magazine *Complex*. Check out the tribal-print tees (above). *(selfridges.com)*

SUNDAY

LAB REPORT

Forward-thinking artists from Fish Island Labs make their annual pilgrimage to the Barbican for *Interfaces*, a techfest featuring gadgets from a virtual reality simulator to a booth that reads your emotions. Free entry *(barbican.org.uk)*

MONDAY

HOTEL HOBBY

Tristan Sharp and dreamthinkspeak – an immersive theatre company – reimagine the life of the redoubtable Duchess of Argyll, who spent years living at the Grosvenor House Hotel. Plunge into Shoreditch Town Hall's maze-like basement and marvel at the enormous room service bill. Until 25 October. Tickets from £12.50 *(shoreditchtownhall.com)*

TUESDAY

SNAP HAPPY

London's crustacean infatuation continues as tapas titans Cristine Leone and Christina Lahaniati (of Ivy's Mess Hall and Little Ivy's) open Lobster Bar, their third eaterie in Hackney. Put some serious snap in your sandwich with a sweet lobster roll (mains from £7.50). Unit 2, 205 Richmond Road, E8 *(lobsterbar.co.uk)*

WEDNESDAY

PLAY DATE

Unleash your inner child at the Science Museum's kid-themed Lates night. Explore the science behind first love (it's not *all* in the eyes, apparently), then grab a beer and head to the silent disco. Adults only. Free entry *(sciencemuseum.org.uk)*

THURSDAY

HORROR SHOW

Scare yourself silly with Film4's Frightfest in Leicester Square (films include *Turbo Kid*, below). Until Monday. Tickets from £13.25 *(frightfest.co.uk)*

GET OVER IT

BREAKFAST MEETINGS... *No, they don't make you look more efficient, just needy. There's a sensible window for talking shop and that's in the working day – plus, maybe, the hour afterwards (but only if booze is included). Scrambled eggs are to be shared with friends, lovers and Instagram followers only.*

Cover photograph of Maisie Williams by Jenny Brough. *Styled by Sophie Paxton. Dress, £2,025, Mary Katrantzou (marykatrantzou.com)*

SEBASTIEN RAYMOND. ALAMY

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FLASHBULB

Edited by Samuel Fishwick
Photographs by James Peltekian

Noel Gallagher

Ruby Rose

Anne Hathaway

Rita Ora

ON TOUR IN SPAIN

SPANISH ARMADA

IBIZA AND FORMENTERA

The A-list descended on the Balearics in a sea of caviar and flyboards. At the head of the fleet, Anne Hathaway and husband Adam Shulman jumped off Valentino's 152ft boat for a spot of snorkelling, Rita Ora rocked up on the good ship *Gold Digger* to support Nick Grimshaw's Radio 1 Ibiza weekend and Princess Beatrice reigned in Spain on Roman Abramovich's superyacht. Landlubbers Mariah Carey and Noel Gallagher beached themselves on dry land and wondered what all the fuss was about.

Mariah Carey

Princess Beatrice and Dave Clark

Nick Grimshaw

Michelle Rodriguez

SOLARPIX.COM. G TRES/VANTAGENEWS.CO.UK. XPOSUREPHOTOS.COM. SPREAD PICTURES. FAMEFLYNET.CO.UK. ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE

TRENDWATCH

LAURA CRAIK

Our arbiter of style falls for a rural retreat with London style, offers an alternative to tummy flashing and hails a 1960s street-style icon

COUNTRY LOVE

Like many Londoners, August is the month when I feel the need to escape; wave goodbye to my pampered urban existence and drive off in search of some muddy country realness. We Londoners love the countryside, don't we? The peace, the bird song, the hay bales, the rolling green fields, the... wait, they don't have artisan coffee? Hang on a cotton-pickin' minute.

People have tried to luxe up the countryside before – glamping isn't a new phenomenon – but this summer the concept has been taken to a whole new level. The countryside has gone couture, fuelled by an increasing army of discerning city dwellers seeking rarefied levels of comfort and service in a rural setting. Basically, they want the best of both worlds – and can afford to purchase them.

I understand these wankers because I am rapidly turning into one. I recently went to Port Eliot (below), a literary/fashion/music festival in Cornwall. Hotels being thin on the ground, we had to camp. Obviously, this meant booking in with Yurtel, which doesn't merely offer luxury yurts with real beds, sheepskin rugs, electricity, mirrors, a lockable front door and complimentary organic toiletries, it also operates 'guest-only fields' at British festivals (they'll be at The Big Feastival next weekend). When you arrive on site, you are met by a porter and offered a glass of champagne. The yurt was no £49 tent from Millets. It was a £1,200-for-four-nights cathedral.

Once I'd had enough artisan coffee and cleaned the mud off my ankle boots (love the countryside but shame about the dirt), I went off again, this time to the newly opened Soho Farmhouse in the über-bucolic Cotswolds. Since no self-respecting Londoner would waste their precious time engaging in anything as plodding as a country walk, it stood to reason that we were met at 'the gatehouse' by a reconditioned milk float painted Farrow & Ball Dix Blue, then taken to our cabin by a horse and cart. But no germ-phobic urbanite could ever countenance something as foul as horse shit, so the horse had been kitted out with a special sack to catch the crap before it fell and ruined someone's Marant slides. 2015: not the Summer of Love, but the Summer of the Horse Nappy.

The look of the summer *Kylie Jenner*

Any garment with a bib will work – the point being that the bib covers your stomach, leaving only the sides visible

I love the Soho House franchise with comedic, middle-class passion. If my suitcase had been big enough, I'd have pilfered every tastefully coordinated throw, cushion, rug and plate my rustic log cabin contained (happily, there is now a Soho House shop, for those who want to create the look). But what does it say about me that I'm so hung up on creature comforts that I refuse to leave London without knowing they'll be replicated wherever I go? This couture version of the countryside gives excellent Instagram, but it's a strange, sanitised sort that takes people miles away from the very thing they claim to want to connect with: the land. The simple life? Forget it. For the couture countrysiders, only the pimped-up version will do.

CROP NOT

Too blubbery/old/scared to wear a cropped top? One solution is to layer it under a pair of dungarees – the look of the summer if Suki Waterhouse, Taylor Swift, Kylie Jenner (left) and legions of London girls are anything to go by. Any garment with a bib will work – the point being that the bib covers your stomach, leaving only the sides visible. Suki Waterhouse's stomach might be as enviable as the rest of her, but those who want to get the look without recourse to a tummy tuck can try some camouflage. Black bandeau + marblewash denim = cool August dressing. No one can be neurotic about the sides of their body, although I could have a good try.

STREET FEAT

Before Garance Doré, Candice Lake and Hanneli Mustaparta had even grabbed a camera, there was Shirley Baker – the only woman in Britain working as a street photographer in the 1960s and 1970s. That her work is as gritty as Garance's is glamorous is all the more reason to catch *Women, Children and Loitering Men*, an exhibition charting the urban clearance programmes of inner-city Manchester and Salford between 1961 and 1981. It brilliantly documents the mindless destruction of working-class communities – a must for anyone who wants to view something with more substance than a 21-year-old Swedish blogger in skorts. **ES**

At The Photographers' Gallery until 20 September

HOT

SAINT LAURENT'S STAR-STUDDED SILVER HIGH-TOPS

New in for autumn and already almost sold out on Net-a-porter, despite the £440 price tag.

NOT

STEALING OTHER PEOPLE'S JOKES

Twitter is cracking down on users who cut and paste gags and pass them off as their own, after several comedians complained.

FAME FLYNET. WRITER PICTURES. ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE

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Q&A

#OBSESSED

Jack Whitehall, 27, actor and comedian

Interview by Samuel Fishwick

The Putney-raised stand-up made his name playing lovable toffs in *Fresh Meat* and *Bad Education*, having cut his teeth at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He lives in Notting Hill with his girlfriend, the actress and *Humans* star Gemma Chan.

DÉCOR

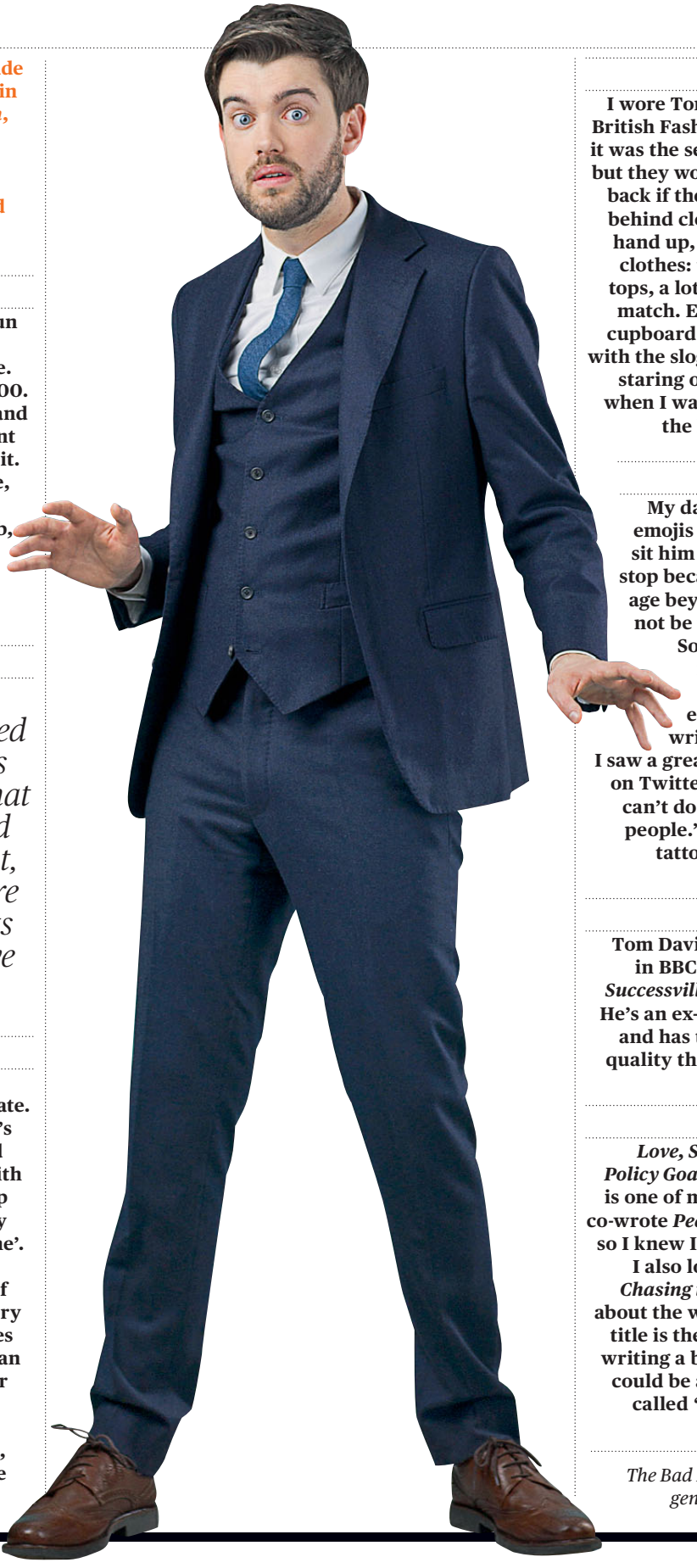
There's a life-size Tutankhamun sarcophagus sitting in my living room and not much else. A neighbour sold it to me for £100. I love it, especially hiding in it and jumping out. When I die, I want to be embalmed and buried in it. I'd also like to buy him a mate, so if anyone has a life-sized Mrs Tutankhamun death tomb, please tell them that Jack would like to offer them a very reasonable £120 for it.

FOOD

I bought myself a NutriBullet, which I used for about five minutes before I remembered that I had a life. I crammed carrots and kale into it, but now it just sits there staring at me. It has its merits, but I don't have the commitment.

FITNESS

People who get too into five-a-side football are my pet hate. I play at Coram's Fields and it's awful when you pitch up and there's a team there already with matching kit doing a warm-up with cones, and trying to play someone as a 'false number nine'. I remind myself of Nicklas Bendtner in his prime: a lot of belief in my own ability and very little to back it up. Danny Jones from McBusted and I play Jordan Stephens and Harley Sylvester from Rizzle Kicks every week and our team always smashes theirs. They're good, but their team is mostly made up of fat has-beens.



FASHION

I wore Tom Ford to present the British Fashion Awards last year – it was the second time I'd hosted it but they wouldn't have invited me back if they'd seen what I wear behind closed doors. I hold my hand up, I wear some terrible clothes: tracksuits, ill-fitting tops, a lot of colours that don't match. Every time I open my cupboard there's a pink T-shirt with the slogan 'Jesus is my Homie' staring out at me. I bought it when I was 16, and it hasn't seen the light of day since.

SOCIAL MEDIA

My dad's started misusing emojis in texts. We've had to sit him down and tell him to stop because there's a certain age beyond which you should not be using the winky face. Social media is a young man's game, although I spend most of my energy following sports writers like Henry Winter. I saw a great quote from someone on Twitter the other day: 'You can't do epic shit with basic people.' I want to have that tattooed on my arm.

PEOPLE

Tom Davis [who plays DI Sleet in BBC Three's *Murder In Successville*] is my acting crush. He's an ex-builder from Croydon and has that rough-diamond quality that I look for in a man.

BOOKS

***Love, Sex & Other Foreign Policy Goals* by Jesse Armstrong is one of my favourite reads. He co-wrote *Peep Show* and *Fresh Meat*, so I knew I was in capable hands. I also loved Johann Hari's *Chasing the Scream*, which is about the war on drugs. Picking a title is the hardest thing about writing a book. My next offering could be a best-selling thriller called 'Day of the Jack-al'.**

The Bad Education Movie is on general release now

PÅL HANSEN/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES

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RESTAURANTS

GRACE AND FLAVOUR

Grace Dent resents toeing the line at ***Hotel Chantelle***

Fans of frittering large amounts of time online may have noticed a recent spirited Twitter campaign called 'We Want Plates'. As a woman who has been served my starter suspended from a washing line twice in the past month – jalapeño peppers and then ibérico jamón – I cheer for these Twitter crusaders. In the not-too-distant past, coming face-to-face with 'a dinner plate' at mealtimes was a pedestrian yet comforting experience, but those days are gone.

We all knew where we were with plates. They were the pottery-based, horizontal, inedible serving platforms on which mashed spuds rested during their heroic voyage from hob to table. A plate, rather than, say, a watering can, a Nike Air Max or a teensy Lilliput-style shopping trolley, was the Western world's go-to device to eat their chips off. Now, however, no dining experience is off-bounds from high-octane, impractical whimsy. 'We Want Plates' is a safe space for diners to share photos of scampi-in-a-plant-pot, ice-cream-in-a-potty and pork chops delivered to the table on a cheap coal shovel.

The jamón-on-a-line was served to me at the brand new Hotel Chantelle situated behind Selfridges. I truly mean 'behind'. The doorway, manned by what can only be termed 'a bouncer', is in a dark alley beside the department store's delivery entrance. Hotel Chantelle is not a hotel. It's by and large a bar, up a steep flight of stairs lit by battery-operated candles. The room is all on one floor, serving an expensive brunch, lunch and dinner menu.

The brand is a New York creation, its mothership is situated on the Lower East Side. Its Manhattan beginnings are the only excuse I can muster for the hilarious email that pinged into my box after I booked entitled: 'Some important information for your consideration.' Specifically that there was a strict 15 minutes 'grace period' on my table (fair enough). And that I could have the table from 8pm to 10pm (OK, steady on). And that none of my party of four would be seated until we were all present (literally STFU, it's dinner not a séance) and, best of all, 'Hotel Chantelle operates a strict dress code of dressy chic'. This kind of non-hospitable hospitality is like catnip to me. It may fly in NY, darling, but in London you can stick it.

You cannot enforce a dress code 'strictly' if it's a term that's pulled from the air. 'Formal' is a thing. 'No beachwear' is a thing. 'Dressy chic' is not a thing

These pissy little pass-agg messages reminding us to wear clean pants and accept that dinner might be cancelled – accepting this is more dangerous to British civility than the removal of our plates! Also: you cannot enforce a dress code 'strictly' if it's a term that's pulled from the air. 'Formal' is a thing. 'No beachwear' is a thing. 'Dressy chic' is not a thing. Unless you mean Don Johnson driving a speedboat in a blazer with the sleeves turned up. What this dress code is simply saying is: 'We might not let you in.' And while that's acceptable at 1am at Hedonism in Rotherham, it is not at a London restaurant that charges £17 for some ibérico jamón suspended from a clothes line.

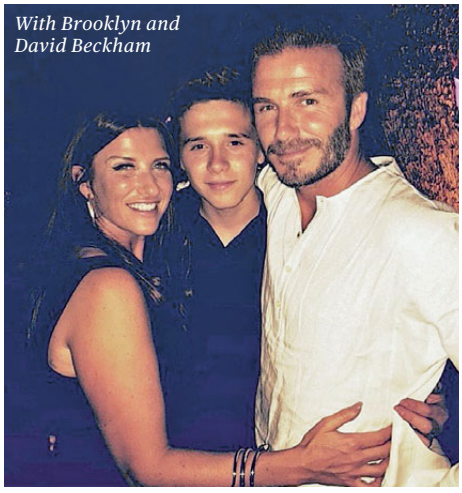
However, that said, the jamón was delicious. So was the chicken and waffles, which arrived on lollipop sticks wrapped in maple syrup candyfloss. Devilled eggs with caviar arrived in a china egg box, off-puttingly ice cold and largely untroubled by fish-flavoured goo. The clientele – dressy chic tourists and Essex husband-hunters – obediently Instagrammed everything put before them, with The Mad Lobster (£46) lying in a tool box proving highly popular. But what happens once you've seen all the quirks. Who comes here twice?

My nori ash-coated monkfish on roasted fennel was challengingly bitter. Yet the high note was drunken chicken parmesan. Let's be honest, 'Parmo' is pretty much always incredible, with or without a vodka sauce. The truffle mac 'n' cheese was exquisite. Hotel Chantelle is named after a Second World War safe house, but there is no escape from my battle for plates and perfect hospitality. I shall not surrender.

HOTEL CHANTELLE
23 Orchard Street, W1
(020 7299 2522; hotelchantelle.com/london)

1 devilled eggs	*£9*
1 jamón	*£17*
1 chicken and waffles	*£14*
1 drunken chicken	*£27*
1 monkfish	*£29*
1 mac 'n' cheese	*£11*
Drinks	*£51*
TOTAL	*£158*

THOMAS ALEXANDER. ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE


With Brooklyn and David Beckham

'WE USED TO PLAY FOOTBALL WITH CARE BEARS'

Her brother is a global megastar and one half of the world's most glamorous power couple. Now Joanne Beckham is stepping out of David's shadow, launching her own business as a fixer for the rich and famous. But just how much will she rely on his name? Laura Craik meets her – and her mother – to find out

I am curious to interview Joanne Beckham, who has just launched a new luxury concierge service. Her brother is permanently on display, while she remains hidden. It must be hard, living with the blight of those inevitable comparisons. My husband hates being compared to his brother – and his brother isn't a famous footballer with 115 England caps, his own fragrance range and an OBE.

'Hello,' I say to the man at the front desk of the St Pancras Renaissance hotel. 'I'm here to meet Joanne Beckham.'

He looks blank.

'She's being shot for ES Magazine,' I start to explain, when my mobile rings – an unfamiliar number. 'Hello? Is that Joanne?' I ask.

It's not. A male voice introduces itself as Jay, former Notts County footballer and Joanne's business partner at WeAreYourCity. Joanne is running late, he says; how about I join him in the Chambers Club suite where the interview is due to take place?

Jay was not in the game plan. But I roll with it and meet him in the lobby. He is dressed anonymously in dark jeans, a dark denim shirt and trainers. He is not one of life's smilers. He ushers me into the Chambers Club, offers me a drink and proceeds to load melon balls into a bowl. Jay says he met Joanne 15 years ago 'through clubbing', and is one of her closest friends. They launched WeAreYourCity, their concierge service, in early July (David attended the launch party at the Rosewood London hotel). He seems fiercely protective of her. We make polite conversation for 45 minutes. Just before Joanne arrives, he asks me not to ask too many questions about David. 'She knows there will be some questions about her brother, just... not too many. She really wants her new business to be the focus.'

I am already sympathetic towards Joanne, because when I Googled her, the first thing that popped up was a string of photos showing her out on the town, in a short skirt and décolletage. We've all been there. But we don't all have world-famous brothers with world-famous wives with a joint wealth estimated at £240m, so our indignities tend not to be documented. Yes, there must be many perks to having David Beckham as a brother. But there must also be many problems, the most relevant one seemingly being: when you're launching

XPOSURE PHOTOS

Portraits by **Hamish Brown**
Styled by **Sophie Paxton**

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your new business, how much should you rely on his name?

At 10.45am, Joanne arrives in a fluster of apologies. She is warm and well-groomed, dressed in black Gina shoes, black trousers, a beige sleeveless jacket and... oh my stars, it's Sandra Beckham. 'This is my mum, and this is my best friend,' says Joanne. With Jay, there are now five of us round the table. Perhaps the waiter might like to sit down, too.

It is hard to concentrate with Sandra Beckham there, not because she is obtrusive but because I keep imagining what it must be like to be the mother of someone who stares out at you from giant billboards, dressed solely in his pants. I struggle as Joanne explains the concept behind WeAreYourCity. For a fee of £1,500, members enjoy a range of special offers and privileges from selected 'brand partners' such as Louis Vuitton (where they can enjoy private shopping), the Dorchester (where they

'IS IT WEIRD SEEING DAVID IN HIS PANTS?' 'UM, SOMETIMES. BUT I'M USED TO IT NOW'

can enjoy late checkouts) and Hakkasan (where they can secure the best table).

Can she name any members? 'That's confidential, sorry.' But she will say they have 15 so far: some celebrities, some sportsmen, all high-net-worth. 'Everyone's trying to compete in London, so obviously we want the best of the best for our members,' she says. 'London's an amazing city; we've experienced some amazing places that we never knew existed.'

I ask her what was the most memorable place she's ever experienced.

'Mine was the Corinthia Spa,' says Jay. 'It's a spa in the Corinthia Hotel. I went there on a Sunday a few months ago, and it's the best spa I've been in.'

What made it so memorable?

'It was just, I dunno... when you walk into the spa, it's just the décor, the layout, everything. The fireplaces.'

'It's a hidden gem,' agrees Joanne.

'Yeah, it's a really hidden gem. You wouldn't expect it, where it was. It was just a nice surprise to go in there and enjoy it for the day. That's probably the best experience I've had in London.'

'I think mine is probably the Café Royal,' says Joanne. 'We used to go out, years ago, to clubs in that area. So to actually go into the hotel where we used to go out, and see what they've done with the hotel... The view from one of the suites, over London, is just unbelievable. You can see the flashing-light billboard – you look on to that. It's just beautiful.'

I have never heard Piccadilly Circus being described as beautiful before, I say. I ask what's the weirdest request she has had so far.

'Weirdest request...' Joanne thinks for a moment, chuckling.

'We don't have weird requests because we work with selected partners,' says Jay, firmly. 'Our concierge company can ask for

Joanne wears dress, £179, Gorgeous Couture (gorgeouscouture.com). Jewellery, Joanne's own. Jay wears his own suit. Hair by Brooke Painter using Wella. Make-up by Jade Bird at Frank Agency using Nars. Shot on location in the Royal Suite at St Pancras Renaissance Hotel (stpancrashotel.com)

High chair to high life *Left: Joanne as a baby with David aged seven. Below, from left: Alex Curran, Joanne Beckham, Wayne Rooney's cousin Claire and Coleen McLoughlin on a night out in 2006*

probably anything, any hour of the day. Our members have a list of partners, so there could never be a request we can't do. If you give someone a list and say, "These are the hotels, spas, restaurants, shops," people can just pick, and it's easier for a member to do that rather than think, "What do I want in the big wide world?" and just make something up.'

Your Twitter bio says that you're a hair and beauty stylist as well, I say to Joanne, in the hope that Jay can't interject.

'Yes. I've got a couple of other projects coming up. We've got a children's website coming up as well. It's called WeAreYourChildren.'

'It's new brands and different brands, so a lot of brands are in their first season in this country. So we've got brands from LA, Copenhagen, Paris, one from London – we just wanted to stock different brands from around the world,' says Jay.

'Some exclusive to us as well,' says Joanne. 'And a few of our ideas, collaborations we've done. Which is quite exciting, because we got

XPOSUREPHOTOS. MARK LARGE/REX SHUTTERSTOCK

Dress, £450, Marina Rinaldi (020 7629 4454)

to have our input into what we liked. I mean, I don't have any children, as yet, but obviously I've got three nephews and a niece who are really into clothes. They're really cool, so obviously when I say to them, "What do you like?" I get a few ideas from them. And I see how they dress. A lot of our clothing that we're going to be selling is what they would wear.'

I am glad that Joanne alluded to her famous nephews and nieces before I did. Are they all equally into clothes?

'Oh, yes. They're all into their clothes and how they look. Harper loves bags and shoes.'

I compliment her on Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz and Harper's manners, which I've heard are exemplary. How have their parents managed it, when they live such pampered lives?

'Good upbringing,' says Joanne.

What the heck does she get them for Christmas?

'There is always something. They're children. There's always something new coming out, isn't there? So we always manage to get them something that they want.'

I ask about growing up with David. 'Obviously he was destined to be a footballer,' she says. 'We shared a bedroom when we were young, and we always used to play football with a Care Bear. We should've been going to bed, but we were actually playing football with this Care Bear, across the beds. I'm seven years younger than him, so I was only about four at the time.'

Why did they use a Care Bear?

'Because it was soft, so... no damage. Anything he could kick about. Socks...'

Did she have a childhood passion, the way David had his football?

'I was always hairdressing. My mum was a hairdresser.'

Sandra comes to life. 'She used to do all her Sindy dolls' hair. And she had a Girls' World. I used to give her a highlight cap and she used to pull the hair through, and I used to make up flour and water. She thought it was bleach. She thought she was doing highlights!' They both laugh fondly. 'All the Sindy dolls even now have got cut hair.'

'I KNOW WHEN DAVID'S COMING HOME BECAUSE THE FRIDGE IS STOCKED UP WITH HIS PIE AND MASH'

'That's obviously because I used to see my mum doing it. All my Sindy and Barbie dolls had really short haircuts.'

Was it hard growing up with such a famous brother? Was it hard to find her own way?

'Um, was it weird? No. No.'

'He was just David,' says Sandra. 'We don't see him like everyone else sees him.'

I explain that I don't have a famous sibling – or any sibling – so can't really imagine what it must be like.

'It doesn't feel like it's a famous sibling,' says Sandra. 'He's just David.'

Close family *Joanne with David, Victoria and Sandra Beckham at a basketball match in LA, 2012*

'When he comes home, the fridge is always filled up though, isn't it, mum?' says Joanne.

'Oh yes,' says Sandra.

'Yes. The fridge is always filled up.'

'She always knows when he's coming home,' says Sandra, winking at me.

'Even if she doesn't tell me, I know when he's coming home because the fridge is full,' says Joanne. 'Stocked up with all the extra things he likes.'

What extra things? I ask, agog.

'I know what he likes,' says Sandra, sagely.

What? What? What do you put in the fridge?

'His pie and mash, things like that,' says Sandra.

Where's the pie and mash from? Does she make it herself?

'No, no. Tony's shop.'

'Tony's Pie and Mash,' says Joanne.

Where's Tony's Pie and Mash, I ask.

'In Waltham Abbey,' says Sandra. 'So I nip there – it's not far from where we live – and just get that and put it in the fridge.'

'It's all there waiting for him,' says Joanne.

Is it weird seeing David on a massive billboard in his pants? That must be a bit weird, I say.

Joanne laughs. 'Um, sometimes. But I am used to it now.'

'When Joanne used to work in the hairdressers, it was a bit... wasn't it, Joanne?' says Sandra. 'With all the girls. In the shop. When he used to do his pants. She used to go in and all the girls would be, "Oh, look!"'

'Yeah. There would always be banter flying around in our staff room,' says Joanne.

And what about her relationship with Victoria? Has she been to any of her shows?

'I've been to a couple of her shows. It's amazing, what she's doing. Such beautiful clothes as well. Every season the range of clothes just get more amazing.'

I read that they share style tips. Is it true?

'Em, possibly I get more from her,' says Joanne. 'Coz, you know, look at her. She's amazing. She always gives me tips.'

Do you ever give her tips?

Joanne looks incredulous. 'How can I give someone like her tips? No!'

'She asks you about her hair,' says Sandra loyally. 'What shampoo should she use.'

'Yeah,' says Joanne, looking embarrassed.

After the interview, Joanne is being photographed. I wonder whether Jay will pop up behind her, waving. Sandra always comes with her on shoots, she says, because 'no one tells the truth more than your mum'.

You've got to watch those stylists, I joke. They'll put you in all kinds of things.

'And they'll tell you you look great,' says Sandra. 'Nobody tells you the truth, do they? They obviously want you to wear the brands, but if they don't suit you...'

I really want WeAreYourCity to work out for Joanne Beckham. She deserves to feel more confident, and seems so nice.

You both just seem so nice, I say, pathetically.

They all laugh. 'Thanks,' says Joanne. **ES**

For WeAreYourCity membership enquiries, go to weareyourcity.com

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Olympic Park

Alberto Rosmini, owner of Signorelli

East Village apartments

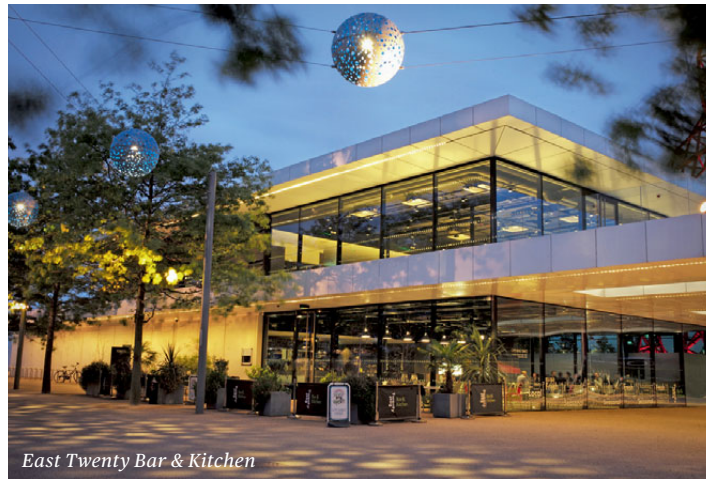
VILLAGE PEOPLE

Quirky cafés, cutting-edge apartments, outdoor film screenings and a new cultural quarter – no wonder E20 is being hailed as London's hippest postcode. Three years on from the Games, Amy E Williams visits the Olympic district and finds a hotspot in the making

Photographs by **Rebecca Reid**

Wetlands

Andrew Eakin, owner of Bottle Apostle


East Twenty Bar & Kitchen

NEW
IMPROVED
HOVIS
SEED SENSATIONS
ORIGINAL
7 SEEDS
FLAVOUR BRINGS OUT FLAVOUR
PACKED WITH SEVEN SEEDS FOR EXTRA TASTE

From the wooden crates artfully arranged next to the counter and piled high with fresh lemons to the cute clipboards on to which menus are fixed, everything about Signorelli's Italian café is crying out to be Instagrammed.

There are jugs of sunflowers and Anglepoise lamps; the smell of almost-baked focaccia bread hangs in the air enticing a steady stream of locals (who know exactly when it is due out of the oven). It sounds like Portobello, it could be Borough or De Beauvoir, but this is E20.

Which is, before you ask, London's newest and, by many accounts, most covetable postcode. Created in 2011 to cover the part of East London which would be transformed by the Olympics, it incorporates the Olympic Park – – the stadium, the twisted red ArcelorMittal Orbit and the acclaimed Zaha Hadid Aquatics Centre – as well as parts of Stratford, Homerton, Leyton and Bow.

It's bordered by Hackney Wick, where the post-Olympic boom has seen dozens of shops and cafés spring up and brought an influx of investment. At its heart is the former athlete's village, which housed 23,000 competitors and has now been reborn as East Village, a neighbourhood of 3,000 homes. By 2020 an E20 'cultural quarter' will see a new V&A museum, Sadler's Wells theatre and London College of Fashion campus. *Vogue* recently described E20 as 'London's hippest postcode', hailing it as 'a new fashion and arts hub' in the making.

It couldn't be more different from 2005 when London won the Olympics bid; then E20 existed only in fiction as the postcode of *EastEnders*' Walford. The area it now covers was a derelict wasteland; the strange part of town that came after Hackney ended and before Stratford properly began. But the promise of transformation, the creation of a thriving place where people would want to live and play long after the Games, was a key element of London's Olympics bid.

New horizons *An elevated view of Stratford (above); table tennis in the East Village (right)*

THERE ARE COMMUNAL BARBECUES, RUNNING TRACKS, PING-PONG TABLES AND AN OUTDOOR GYM. BETTER STILL, PEOPLE ARE USING THEM

Three years on, things are starting to take shape. The temptation to create some sort of Olympicsville has been avoided; the only direct nod to the Games will be the addition of small plaques in the entrance halls of the East Village blocks indicating which teams stayed where. The one-bedroom flats, designed to cram in as many athletes as possible, have been reconfigured into one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, and four-bedroom townhouses. The first residents began arriving 18 months ago and there are now 5,000 tenants. The flats will not be to everyone's taste – our love affair with Victorian conversions means that new-builds can appear soulless and bland by comparison – but accommodation designed for 2015 certainly has its advantages (including power showers, energy-saving lighting, double glazing and free superfast broadband).

But the real draw is the sense of character and community. Buzz, of course, is the most difficult thing to introduce in a district where everything is carefully curated from the top down. Which takes us back to Signorelli. As the area takes shape, one of its great achievements is the absence of chains. In contrast to the brand-lined 'streets' of Westfield Stratford in the east corner of E20, only independent businesses have been allowed in to the Village complex (with one exception: a slightly out of place, but no doubt very useful, Sainsbury's Local).

This has proved an attraction. As Signorelli's charismatic owner Alberto Rosmini puts it: 'I chose [a place] where I felt people would invest in helping something new survive.' He opened ahead of schedule so that locals working from home during the Tube strikes had somewhere to take a break; one customer was so impressed he posted a photo on Facebook. 'Within 20 minutes there were other people popping in, excited to try us out,' he says. Andrew Eakin, owner of the independent wine merchants Bottle Apostle next to Victory Park, describes local loyalty as 'unexpected but brilliant'. A tasting he advertised last month, expecting a few dozen people, received 200 responses.

Signorelli and Bottle Apostle will be soon be joined by a new outpost of Dalston's popular coffee spot Tina, We Salute You, in a space with huge windows overlooking a rugged and tall-grassed wetland area. The Dalston original is much-loved for its artists-in-residence events and top-notch flat whites; the E20 version will also offer cocktails. A short walk west, along the banks of Hackney's River Lee, the area is peppered with art galleries, yet more independent cafés and lively bars and pubs.

While much of East London has been affected by spiralling house prices and the booming buy-to-let industry, a concerted effort is being made in the Olympic zone to avoid this. Rental apartments aren't cheap (a furnished one-bedroom flat costs £405 a week), but the fact that there are only a few shared-ownership flats available to buy is a deliberate move by Get Living London, the agency which oversees much of the area's development, to avoid buy-to-leave syndrome. (The East Village itself is owned by Middle Eastern firm Qatari D, who bought it for £557m.)

The housing blocks were designed by 16 international architects, with no two buildings exactly the same: one is covered in stone-coloured cladding, inspired by the Elgin Marbles; while Vesta House, which was designed by renowned London architect Deborah Saunt, has a dramatic, triangular-shaped entrance hall and a huge window in the roof. It wouldn't look out of place in Singapore.

Indeed, if you wanted to describe this new area, it's cities such as Singapore or Sydney with their civilised, outdoorsy vibe that draw the closest comparisons. There's green space at every turn, but not a single Keep off the Grass sign in sight. I see an outdoor yoga class taking place on a communal lawn, and a team setting up for an outdoor screening run by The Nomad Cinema. There are communal barbecues, running tracks, ping-pong tables and an outdoor gym. Better still, people are using them.

And then there are the world-beating sports facilities. 'Tom Daley is a regular at the Aquatics Centre… and I saw Katarina Johnson-Thompson leading a Nike running group through the village,' says Sarah Hale, an animator who has shared a two-bedroom flat in the Village since last summer. 'For my sports-mad eight-year-old we really couldn't be living anywhere better,' agrees former athlete Jonathan Silman, who sold his four-bedroom house in Barking to rent a flat with his partner and two young sons. He now runs a football school and sends his elder son to Chobham Academy, the local school which specialises in advanced science, maths and Mandarin, and which was rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

Of course, no amount of football clubs, ping-pong tournaments and wine tastings is going to convince everyone of E20's new status as this city's most exciting corner. The idea of a baker who knows your name will make some people want to dash to the nearest anonymous Starbucks. But, as part of the wider revitalisation of this vast area of East London – combined with the grittier cool found in its surrounding pockets of Stratford, Leyton or Hackney and the promise of the cultural delights to come – the East Village is a spot on the map worth knowing about. As Bottle Apostle's Andrew Eakin puts it: 'There is a real energy here to build something. It's not going to happen overnight, and we don't expect miracles, but there is a very strong will to make it work.' **ES**

GLENN COPUS. REBECCA REID

Portraits by **Jenny Brough**
Styled by **Sophie Paxton**

WHAT'S DRIVING MAISIE?

She made her name on Game of Thrones – now Maisie Williams is set to take Hollywood by storm. As she wraps up production on The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea, she tells Alex Clark about her fear of failure, resisting the 'hot girlfriend' roles and why it's time to give teenagers a break

This picture: top, £18, and trousers, £45, Topshop (topshop.com). Shoes, £595, Jimmy Choo (jimmychoo.com). Opposite: dress, £2,050, Delpozo (delpozo.com)

MISS

Maisie Williams is holding a packet of Liquorice Allsorts and periodically popping sweets into her mouth – no mean feat given that she's chatting nineteen-to-the-dozen. Frantically chewing, she is getting fired up about the perception and treatment of teenagers, who, she says, 'just get a bad press for everything. No matter what happens in the press, if it involves a teenager then you automatically get eye rolls.' What particularly angers her is 'the stigma that we can't do it, before you've even given teenagers a chance. The thought that if you struggle to get a job, then you can't be bothered. That's not the case at all – so many of my friends are so passionate and so willing, and want to work in this world and do great things with their lives. Instead, one person sits on their arse so therefore all of us do. It's just not fair. It's the judgement before there's even proof.'

She stops for an intake of breath; I tell her she sounds pretty impassioned and energised. 'Can you tell?' she giggles. 'Do I sound like I've had a coffee?'

She deserves a Bar Italia of double espressos and an entire sweetshop if she intends to continue at the prodigious work rate of the past few years: having only recently turned 18, Williams has already amassed several years' acting experience. When she landed the part of child warrior Arya Stark in *Game of Thrones* she was just 12 years old and had never acted before. Four years later, when she arrived on the set of atmospheric schoolgirl drama *The Falling* – in which she plays a girl who starts a hysterical fainting outbreak in a 1960s girls' school, her first ever lead role – director Carol Morley asked her to talk to the film's other youngsters to tell them what to expect. Not, Williams explains, 'in a dickish way', but just to put them at ease: 'We just wanted them to not feel nervous, because I know I was nervous the first time I went on a set.' When filming began, 'You wouldn't have known that they'd never done anything before. They were on their marks and not chatting and just really professional. It's nice to be with people who are so grateful for this industry, because there are so many people that aren't.'

That's not an impression anyone's going to develop about Williams. When she started out, she remembers, people were always telling her to make sure she had a back-up plan: 'I was told that I was taking these risks and what if it all falls flat, and what if and what if and what if... I was constantly thinking, "One day this is gonna end, you know, just make the most of it."' But with her involvement in *Game of Thrones* carrying on apace (without spoiling anything, the last season ended pretty disastrously for Arya, but, unlike many of the show's other characters, at least she hasn't been killed off) and scripts coming in by the bushel, things have changed. Upcoming projects include a guest appearance in the new series of *Doctor Who* and a leading role in *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* – a film starring and produced by Jessica Biel, about a widower who teams up with a wisecracking girl in order to build a raft to cross the Atlantic. So she's entitled to feel more secure.

'Now all of a sudden I feel like I've got a bit of a hold of my career,' she says. 'Now I'm like, actually I don't have to worry about that any more, I should actually look to the future, and look at what I'm going to do next. Rather than thinking that I'll make the most of this because it's gonna end, I've realised, no, I'm going to make sure this continues [she stops to laugh melodramatically] *forever*.'

Williams grew up in Bristol, the youngest of four children. Her mother was a university administrator who later became her daughter's personal assistant, and her stepfather is a business consultant. She lived, she tells me, a fairly ordinary, middle-class life – there weren't 'bags of money to go around', and certainly not enough for posh drama lessons. But there was always something of the performer about her. 'I always wanted to make people laugh,' she says. 'I was so much more confident making a dick out of myself, basically. When I was little I didn't care about that, I had no reservations. I loved to do funny accents and make my mum, my stepdad and brothers and sisters laugh. It's just something that I really enjoyed.'

She had no particular pull towards acting, nor sense of it as a possible career path: 'I knew nothing about it. I didn't even do any acting classes. There weren't any acting classes locally that you could go to for free.' However, she did take some dancing lessons, which led to her teacher suggesting she attend a talent show in Paris, where she was spotted and taken on by an agent. After an unsuccessful audition for the *Nanny McPhee* sequel, she beat off hundreds of other hopefuls to secure the part of Arya Stark, the tomboyish daughter of the House of Stark who sets off on an epic quest to avenge the brutal murders of various family members.

The next few years saw her travel the world, and also put full-time mainstream education aside. Her family's decision that she would be educated by tutors, and would not sit her GCSEs, caused raised eyebrows in the press – but parents and daughter remain adamant that she can return to her studies in the future if she wants to.

Her mother, Hilary, explained at the time: 'Maisie was given a lot of opportunities that we didn't feel we could turn down to concentrate on education. I know a lot of people would disagree with that, but that's what we decided to do. At the time, Maisie was filming; there were appearances and other things. She didn't have time to sit her exams.'

Meanwhile, Williams had to adjust to the fact that she was becoming famous, as *Game of Thrones* not only became a cult hit but also the most downloaded show in TV history. 'All of a sudden it started happening,' she says. 'Even me and my mum were like, "What is happening here?" All of a sudden we knew how big it was going to get, but other people still didn't. It was this weird sort of limbo, the transition between

'I ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH. I WAS SO MUCH MORE CONFIDENT MAKING A DICK OUT OF MYSELF'

Playing the game
Above: as Arya Stark in Game of Thrones. Left: at Comic-Con International in San Diego with GoT actors Alfie Allen, Conleth Hill and Natalie Dormer

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Coat, £210, Harris Wharf London, at harveynichols.com

Dress, POA, Christopher Kane (christopherkane.com). Shoes, £695, Christian Louboutin (08432 274322). Hair by Daniel Dyer at David Artists using Aveda. Make-up by Jade Bird at Frank Agency using YSL Beauté. Stylist's assistant: Isabelle Fowler

being away and thinking this could be my future, but then coming home and being sucked back to reality.'

What about the difficulties of being a woman in an intensely spotlit industry? 'There are a lot of roles that come in that are "the girlfriend" or "the hot piece" in a movie or TV series,' she says. 'That's something I've seen first-hand and read all the time. It will say "Derek: intelligent, good with kids, funny, really good at this" and then it will say "Sandra: hot in a sort of cute way" – and that's all you get. That's the way your character is described, so going into an audition you are channelling "hot", which isn't like a person, that's not who a person is. That's what I see and that's what needs to change. I've been lucky enough to play a very great female character from a young age, who is a fantastic role model for girls.'

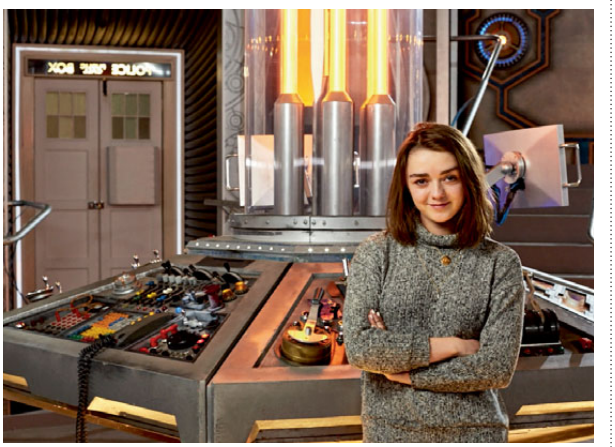
She's realistic, she says, about how the industry works, and knows that you can't always pick and choose your parts, but nonetheless hopes things can shift: 'I just hope that if we stop playing those characters, they'll stop being written.' She pauses, and then laughs. 'It's a very big thing to say for me, on behalf of all the women in this industry.'

Fame, of course, brings its challenges. She's big on the advantages of social media, in particular because it enables her to keep in touch with her friends when she's away working; but when she tweets, it's to more than 1m followers. Earlier this year, she starred in a Channel 4 drama, *Cyberbully*, and spoke at the time of her own experience of internet trolling, of the capacity of people she's never met to hurt her. 'I've been sat on a train, right next to my mum, with my phone in my hand and reading all sorts of abuse,' she was quoted as saying, 'I felt completely on my own.'

And although born and bred in the West Country and naturally fond of the countryside, her decision to spend her 18th birthday camping with friends was in part fuelled by not wanting to spend the whole time being recognised. 'I thought, "It's my 18th, I want to have fun and not worry about anything like that. I should just go to a field in the middle of nowhere," so I did. It was wonderful, it was so nice to be with my friends and people who really, really matter. Sometimes being in this industry and reading horrible things online – for anyone, not just me, for anyone – does get on top of you, so it's nice to spend time with real people who are right in front of you. Your real friends, who take time out of their lives to come and spend time with you for your birthday. It really did just round off my year – or even my childhood – nicely I guess, 'cos now I'm an adult.'

One big plus to being over 18, she says, is that it's easier for her to see the kind of DJs she likes without having to wait for under-18 nights to roll around. She's a fan of underground music and drum and bass, and has recently started to get into hip-hop, courtesy of her boyfriend. 'My boyfriend is my boyfriend, and he's very, very nice,' she says when I ask who he is. 'He's not an actor or anything, and no one will ever know who he is.' She laughs. 'Not in a mean way, that sounded so evil. He was always really into hip-hop and I never really got it. I was like that person who says, "They just talk about women really badly and they just swear."' Now, she's a convert, and a fan of Kendrick Lamar, whose album *To Pimp a Butterfly* – which deals with themes from the weight of religion to the lure of gang culture – she thinks should be taught in schools: 'He's got such powerful messages... it opened my eyes to so many troubles that I will never face because of the colour of my skin and it really, really hit home.'

Williams has three older siblings, James, Beth and Ted, now 24, 23 and 21 respectively (all traditional names, she explains; she herself was christened Margaret, but has always been known as Maisie, after the little girl in the classic newspaper cartoon strip, The Perishers). The family was very close: 'We were all our own best friends when we were growing up, me and my siblings.' There was nevertheless a degree of rough and tumble, which left her with a healthy respect for competition – the virtues of which she thinks have been somewhat eclipsed by the mantra of 'it's the taking part that counts'. True, she says, but 'we should still want to do the best that we can, even if that isn't great'.



Career moves
Left: in The Secret of Crickley Hall (2012) with Tom Ellis and Pixie Davies. Below: in the new series of Doctor Who. Bottom: with her Shooting Stars Award in February this year

> **'THERE ARE A LOT OF ROLES THAT COME IN WHICH ARE "THE GIRLFRIEND" OR "THE HOT PIECE". THAT'S WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE'**

Williams has moved from Bristol to Bath, where she lives on her own, but still feels deeply connected to the West Country, and can't see herself making the move to London or elsewhere any time soon. But with work taking her on the road so frequently, she knows that her horizons are going to broaden – *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* has piqued her interest in working in America, and she's involved in a potential film version of the PlayStation game The Last of Us. But, she says, 'I actually don't have a plan for my future. It has worked out all right so far, so I'm just going to keep going with the flow.'

She seems content, too, with her decision to drop out of school at 14. Last summer, when her peers were receiving their exam results, she wrote on Twitter: 'For the few of you who were disappointed by your grades and didn't get what you were hoping for, I would just like to say that I have no qualifications to my name and won't have for a while. There is more than one route into your dream job.'

Meanwhile, she's happy to globetrot while she's working and then return home and rejoin her group of friends. 'We don't come home and all have a family conference about what Maisie has been up to, after I've been away. It's like, "Oh, what have you been up to?" "Oh, I went to America"; "OK that sounds fun"; "Yeah, it was cool." That's sort of it, but I wouldn't have it any other way because it's nice to have an escape from it all. As I said, this world is totally crazy. It's not really what I'm used to, so it is nice to go home and actually not have to talk about myself all the time, because that's what I spend my life doing. But it's nice to have a contrast and have a break from this. Then I can not be Maisie Williams, and just be Maisie Williams from Clutton. That's nice too.' **ES**

The Falling is out on VOD/DVD on 24 August. Maisie Williams can be seen on BBC One this autumn in series 9 of Doctor Who, which begins on Saturday 19 September

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WEST'S CLUB 7

When the world's most famous rapper is after a little inspiration, where does he turn?

Kanye West might be the music industry's biggest ego – but he's not averse to working with other people. At least, not if they come from London. With a new album, *Swish*, in the works and further clothing lines inevitable, Yeezy is mining our fashion, film and music industries to cultivate a diverse circle of collaborators. From the designer who gives him style cred to the classical musician who pulls his strings, meet the Londoners Kanye has on speed dial...

THE VISIONARY
ES DEVLIN

If you've ever been to see Kanye live, you'll be familiar with Devlin's work. The huge mountain that took centre stage in the Yeezus tour? Devlin. The giant video cubes projecting footage of sharks and Rottweilers that Kanye and Jay Z stood atop on their joint Watch the Throne tour? Devlin. One of the most in-demand set designers in the world, the 43-year-old, who took London's Motley Theatre Design Course after studying at Central Saint Martins, was also responsible for the Olympic Closing Ceremony, Miley Cyrus' Bangerz tour, Louis Vuitton's S/S 2015 show and, most recently, *Hamlet* at the Barbican, aka the hottest ticket in town.

West and Devlin first spoke when the rapper rang her in a panic – there were 12 days until his 2005 Touch the Sky tour and he was unhappy with his set design. Devlin mocked up a stage featuring extreme weather conditions and the pair have been collaborating ever since. 'There's a singularity to [Kanye's] vision,' Devlin has said. 'Although his music is the most electronically modified thing you can imagine... what he responds to visually and emotionally is pure nature. He would sing out on a glacier if he could.'

THE SUPER-PRODUCER
HUDSON MOHAWKE

Glasgow-born, Dalston-based DJ and songwriter Hudson Mohawke (real name Ross Birchard) started working with the rapper back in 2012 when he was plucked from relative obscurity to be the in-house producer for West's GOOD Music label.

With co-production credits on Yeezus' 'I Am a God' and 'Blood on the Leaves', Birchard most recently worked on the track 'All Day' from *Swish*, which was released in March. Kanye had been working on the song in studios everywhere from Hawaii to Paris to Mexico, but he decided to finish mixing it earlier this year at the Health Farm, Birchard's modest East London studio. It was from here that Yeezy debuted the original album title, *So Help Me God* on Twitter, causing an internet meltdown in the process (he announced the name change to *Swish* in May).

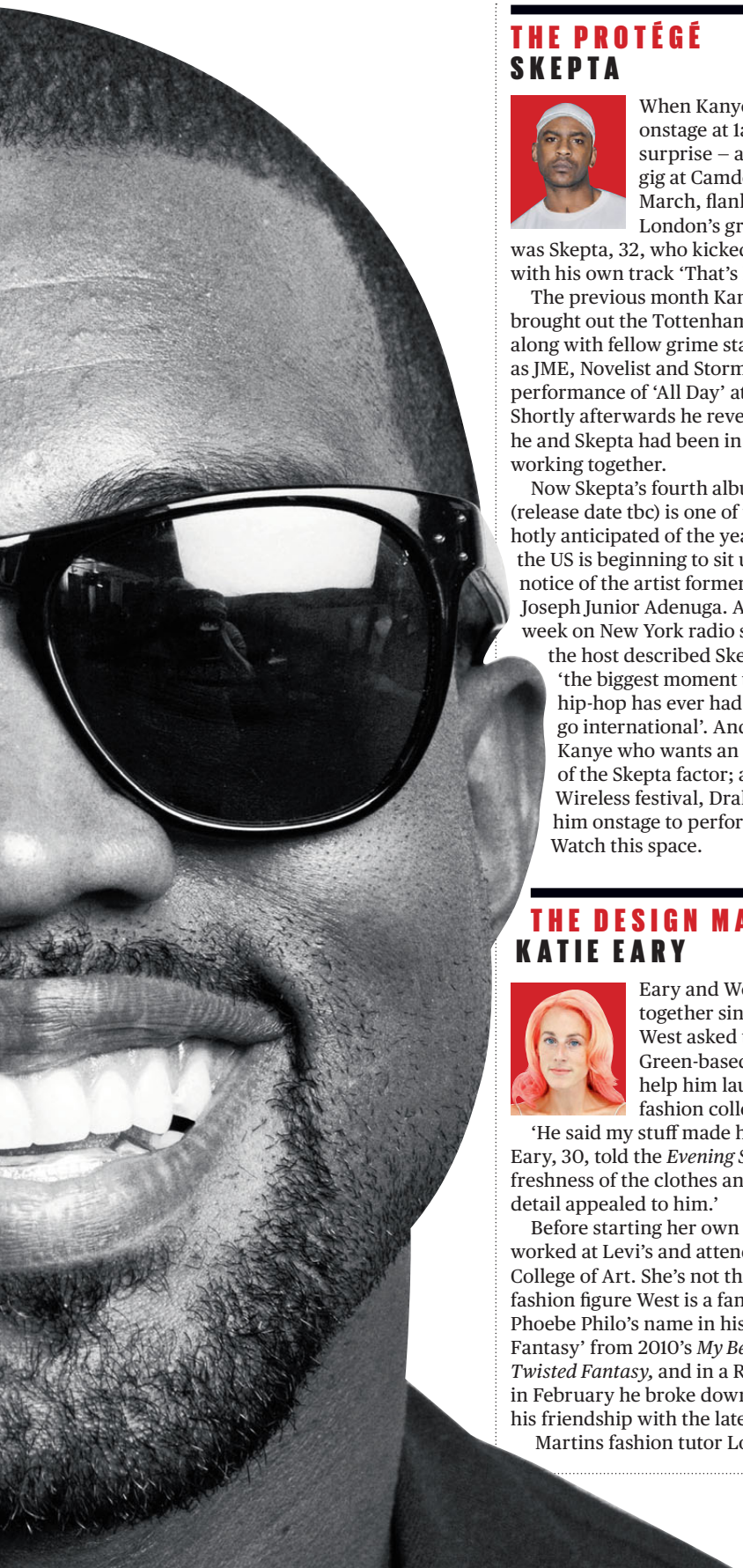
But HudMo, as he's known to his fans, doesn't merely answer to Kanye; he is a successful artist in his own right. As well as releasing hip-hop-inspired dance music with Montreal producer Lunice – the duo call themselves TNGHT – the 29-year-old's second solo album *Lantern*, a masterclass in ambitious electronic dance music, came out in June to rave reviews. He's clearly a busy guy: a recently tweeted screenshot of his mobile revealed he had some 22,977 unread emails, while his latest monthly phone bill was £4,741.13. Maybe Kanye can help him out.

THE INDIE KID
JAMES BLAKE

James Blake might be a softly spoken lad from Enfield but the world's gobbiest megastar has handed out some heavy praise for the electronic music whizzkid: 'Just go listen to his music and say, "Hey, that's Kanye's favourite artist," ' West told a radio station a couple of years back. It became a very public love-in. Blake, 26, said in an interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine: 'I've been inspired by a lot of the music he's made. I was certainly inspired by *Yeezus*. It made me rethink what I'm doing.' Now the pair have cemented their bromance by working on a track together for Blake's upcoming album *Radio Silence*. When trying to explain why a collaboration between the drastically different artists could be a good idea, Blake turned to Oscar Wilde: 'Diversity of opinion about a work of art shows that the work is new, complex and vital.'

BILL BAKER/REDUX/EYEVINE. TIM P WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES. ANTHONY DEVLIN/PA. ZAC KACZMAREK/GETTY IMAGES. ADHEMAR SBURLATI/BROADIMAGE. ROGER KISBY/GETTY IMAGES

To London, of course. Gillian Orr introduces the capital's creatives making Kanye cool



THE PROTÉGÉ
SKEPTA

When Kanye finally walked onstage at 1am for his surprise – and uproarious – gig at Camden's Koko in March, flanked by half of London's grime scene, it was Skepta, 32, who kicked off proceedings with his own track 'That's Not Me'.

The previous month Kanye had brought out the Tottenham-born artist, along with fellow grime stars such as JME, Novelist and Stormzy for his performance of 'All Day' at the Brit Awards. Shortly afterwards he revealed that he and Skepta had been in the studio working together.

Now Skepta's fourth album *Konnichiwa* (release date tbc) is one of the most hotly anticipated of the year. Meanwhile, the US is beginning to sit up and take notice of the artist formerly known as Joseph Junior Adenuga. Appearing last week on New York radio station Hot 97, the host described Skepta's rise as 'the biggest moment that UK hip-hop has ever had... to really go international'. And it's not just Kanye who wants an injection of the Skepta factor; at London's Wireless festival, Drake brought him onstage to perform 'Shutdown'. Watch this space.

THE DESIGN MAVEN
KATIE EARY

Eary and West have worked together since 2011 when West asked the Stepney Green-based designer to help him launch his fashion collection.

'He said my stuff made him happy,' Eary, 30, told the *Evening Standard*. 'The freshness of the clothes and attention to detail appealed to him.'

Before starting her own label, Eary worked at Levi's and attended the Royal College of Art. She's not the only London fashion figure West is a fan of. He dropped Phoebe Philo's name in his track 'Dark Fantasy' from 2010's *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, and in a Radio 1 interview in February he broke down when discussing his friendship with the late Central Saint Martins fashion tutor Louise Wilson.

THE MOVIE MAN
STEVE McQUEEN

Only Kanye could convince the Oscar-winning director Steve McQueen to make a music video. Last month, at LA's County Museum of Art, West and McQueen unveiled the 'conceptual art project' for 'All Day/I Feel Like That'. Filmed in a dockyard near London, the first half sees Kanye dancing while the second sees him collapsed on the floor. McQueen, who grew up in West London, asked Kanye to beat himself up before filming in order to look distressed.

When asked why he wanted to work with the *12 Years a Slave* director, West said McQueen 'elevated my palate'. It wasn't the first time he'd hit up McQueen. At the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards, the rapper performed 'Blood on the Leaves' in front of a backdrop designed by him, and the director attended West's wedding to Kim Kardashian. Meanwhile, McQueen wrote in *Interview* magazine that West 'has perhaps done more than any other hip-hop artist to bring the bold experimentation and cathartic emotional energy of rock'n'roll to rap.'

THE STRING MAESTRO
ROSIE DANVERS

One of the most sought-after classical arrangers in the country, Danvers and her orchestra, Wired Strings, can be found on records by Adele, Noel Gallagher and Frank Ocean, among others. So it's not surprising that when Kanye requires the rousing sound of strings, the North Londoner is his go-to woman.

Working together since 2005, they first collaborated on West's live shows but Danvers has since overseen arrangements on a number of tracks from 2007's *Graduation* and 2010's *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, including, most memorably, the classical interlude that opens 'All of the Lights' and the signature French horn that runs through it.

A graduate of London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Academy of Music, Danvers' website mentions that she has been working on a track for Kanye at RAK Studios in St John's Wood, suggesting that she and her orchestra may well make another appearance on *Swish*. ES

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WEEKENDING

DIOR'S NEW STAR

In his first complete collection, Peter Philips, the brand new creative and image director at Christian Dior Makeup, has set the beauty agenda for A/W 2015. The new range, Cosmopolite, uses wet-to-dry technology in metallic-hued eyeshadows, and includes five cult nail polishes (we love the iridescent Darling Blue). The *pièce de résistance* – the Dior Addict Fluid Stick in Avant Garde – strikes the perfect balance between colour and shine. It all makes for a stellar debut.
Dior Addict Fluid Stick, £26.50, at selfridges.com

VINCENT LAPPARTIENT FOR PARFUMS CHRISTIAN DIOR

BEAUTY

BEST FACE FORWARD

Key beauty buys inspired by the A/W 2015 runways

Edited by **Casey Gillespie**

ESTÉE LAUDER
Perfectionist Youth-Infusing Brightening Serum + Concealer
A dual-ended serum and concealer that hydrates, evens skin tone and minimises fine lines creating the perfect canvas for this season's au naturel skin trends.
£28.50 (esteelauder.co.uk)

YSL
Couture Kajal in Vert Anglais
A 3-in-1 kohl, eyeliner and eyeshadow, the crayon-like eye pencil delivers intense colour and addictive versatility. Available in four shades.
£25 (yslbeauty.co.uk)

BURBERRY
Autumn/Winter 2015 Runway Palette
Inspired by the camouflage prints from the womenswear runway, the khaki green, stone and black shades are gorgeous when used to create a sultry smoky eye.
£50 (burberry.com)

GUERLAIN
Parure Gold Radiance Powder Foundation SPF15
Combining the convenience of a powder with the blending power of a liquid foundation, this little luxury is worth the splurge.
£56, at selfridges.com

TOO FACED
Love Flush Long-Lasting Blush
This high-pigment blush works for any skin tone and comes packaged in a heart-shaped compact that's as covetable as the 16-hour formula.
£25, at debenhams.com

MAC
Haute & Naughty Lash Mascara
A dual-wiper wand allows you to create a laid-back daytime look or layer up the lightweight formula to create a high-drama eye for night.
£19 (maccosmetics.co.uk)

PS... **Indulge in an at-home detox with The Body Shop's new charcoal-rich Africa Ximenia & Salt Scrub. Repeat after us, ahhh... £18 (thebodyshop.co.uk)**

YOU BEAUTY!

ANNABEL RIVKIN'S CABINET OF WONDERS

Let me ask you something: can you cut your own hair? Not just a fringe trim but a proper restyle? Now, can you shape your own eyebrows? Are you absolutely sure about that? I just don't think that we possess the visual perspective to go about it properly. Plucking the odd rogue sprouter, sure. But standing back, taking stock and working on the detail of these crucial pieces of facial architecture? Not me. And home-plucking can never achieve the clarity of an expert threading.

Eyebrows frame the face, open the eyes and add glamour. If you want to go make-up-free, then work on your brows as much as you work on your skin. In terms of priorities, they should come before fake tan, false lashes and teeth whitening.

If in doubt about your brows, my advice would be this: grow them for a month and apply Blink Brow Oil every night. The sweet almond oil will condition the hairs (do not underestimate the value of a glossy, nourished, unmade-up brow) and the rosemary will stimulate growth. Do. Not. Tweeze. Them. At all. You need them as bushy as possible so you can carve out the best silhouette. Do this while you still have a summer tan – that way you'll look a bit feral rather than a bit mad. Then pop into the Blink Brow Bar on Ledbury Road, populated by experts, and sort yourself out.

Do not underestimate the value of a glossy, nourished brow

Blink Nourishing Brow Oil, £16 (blinkbrowbar.com)

TOBI JENKINS. CATWALKING.COM. ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE

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TRENDS

THE POWER OF ONE

Show some flare in denim dungarees

Photograph by **Mitch Payne** *Styled by* **Jenny Kennedy**

HAIR AND MAKE-UP BY AMY CONLEY. MODEL: COURTNEY S AT M+P MODELS. ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE

Style guru

ORSOLYA SZABO

Q

How can I look cool at a London wedding?

A

The coolest thing is a big white dress with a sash that says 'Next time it's me', a big grin and zero irony. If this approach is too postmodern for your hosts, opt for something bright and flattering. London weddings are easier to dress for than those anywhere too hot (it's hard to wear a skimpy outfit and still look chic) or too rural (heels and mud don't mix). Plus you can throw on a leather jacket in the evening, which always ups the cool factor. Jumpsuits are still everywhere and an excellent choice for effortless yet sexy chic. I love this yellow number, which will see you through all manner of celebratory activities. *Jumpsuit, £58, Topshop (topshop.com)*

Orsolya loves

LAURA IMAMI SUNGLASSES

There's a new sunglasses brand on the block and it's impossible not to find a pair in the collection that's perfect for any face – even my very small one. The aim is perfection: from inception to manufacture, everything is beautifully crafted. I love this round 'Sara' pair. *From £360 (lauraimami.com)*

Alexandra Shulman book signing at Jaeger: 100 tickets to give away

Jaeger Regent Street, 3 September, 6-8.30pm

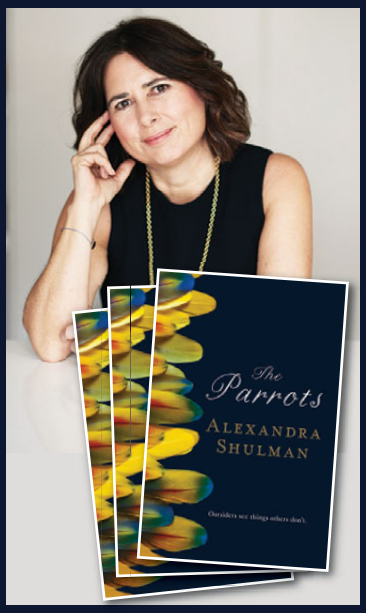
To celebrate the launch of their AW15 collection and the launch of Alexandra Shulman's new novel, *The Parrots*, Jaeger is hosting a reading, Q&A and book signing with the author at their Regent Street store on 3 September. Guests will also enjoy complimentary drinks, styling advice and exclusive offers.

Two parrots have been disturbing Katherine Tennison's peaceful garden for some time. A further disruption appears with the arrival of Antonella and Matteo Fullardi, children of an old school friend. Rich and troubled, they will provoke a series of events revealing the Tennisons' quiet family life to be less perfect than it initially seems.

'A sparkling tale of seduction and suspense' - Tatler

We've teamed up with Jaeger to give away 100 tickets to readers to attend the event.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
rsvp to rsvp@jaeger.co.uk



Terms & Conditions: Please note copies of The Parrots will be on sale on the evening for £14.99 and not included with tickets. Offer closes at 23:59 on 2 September 2015 or when all 100 tickets are allocated, whichever is sooner. Tickets are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, the first 100 entries will be contacted directly by email. Names will be checked against a guest list, please bring a form of ID. Tickets are non-transferable, non-assignable and there is no cash alternative. Promoter: Jaeger.

JAEGER
JAEGER.CO.UK

TRENDS

TURN IT UP

Look sharp in statement trousers

Photograph by **David Abrahams** *Styled by* **Anish Patel**

LOEWE *knitted polo (right), £675, at selfridges.com.* **DSQUARED2** *He Wood Intense EDT (below), £52, at houseoffraser.co.uk*

BLYSZAK *sunglasses (above), £295, at ln-cc.com*

THEORY *shorts (below), £105, at mrporter.com*

LOEWE *jeans (right), £595, at selfridges.com.* **LOEWE** *calf pouch (below), £425*

VANS *Old Skool leather trainers (left), £60, at urbanoutfitters.com.* **CASTAÑER** *espadrilles (below), £90, at mrporter.com*

STOCKISTS *loewe.com*

HAIR BY JOHNNIE BILES AT STELLA CREATIVE ARTISTS USING AVEDA. SKINCARE BY LOUISE DARTFORD AT STELLA CREATIVE ARTISTS USING LIZ EARLE MEN'S SKINCARE. FASHION ASSISTANT: ISABELLE FOWLER. MODEL: LUKE POWELL AT MODELS 1. ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE

Life coach

DAN ROOKWOOD

Q

What's the most reliable place to buy a fine vintage watch?

A

It's all about playing the arcades – the Mayfair boutique kind. For vintage Omegas, go to Somlo; for Pateks, I'd recommend David Duggan, and for a Rolex, the Vintage Watch Company (which has very rare Rolexes with stone dials, above). These are all on Burlington Arcade, while Watch Club on The Royal Arcade has a connoisseur's collection of rarities. The best websites are visionvintage watches.com and (my favourite) foundwell.com. For more recent timepieces, try watchfinder.co.uk. And be sure to read up on vintage pieces at hodinkee.com before buying.
Dan is an editor at mrporter.com

Dan loves

TWC

New brand The Workers Club is all about buying less but better. Each piece is designed to enhance your life and never date. The waterproof outer shell, wool gilet and down-filled liner, for example, can all be connected (outer shell and liner, above) or worn separately throughout the seasons.
Prices on request (theworkersclub.co.uk)

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FOOD

COCKTAIL STICKS

Rachel Khoo gets into carnival spirit with a fruity rum kebab

Edited by **Dipal Acharya**

That chaotic, quintessentially London weekend is almost upon us. Many of us have a bit of a love/hate relationship with the Notting Hill Carnival, and this year promises to be as crazy as ever come the Bank Holiday. I wanted to make something that would put everyone in the mood for this quirky, colourful and, let's face it, boozy two-day bonanza. While the food that generally springs to mind might be jerk chicken, I've got a little something sweet for you – my take on the Piña Colada.

PIÑA COLADA KEBABS

Makes 8-10 (serves 4)

½ medium pineapple
1 large mango, or 2 medium ones
8-10 15cm kebab sticks
6 tbsp coconut palm sugar
50ml white rum
100g coconut yoghurt, for dipping
1 lime
30g coconut cream block, for grating (optional)

Halve the pineapple lengthways, peel off the skin and cut out the eyes with a small paring knife. Set aside. Peel the entire mango with the knife, then cut off the cheeks around the stone. Now cut the mango and pineapple into even-sized 3cm cubes.

Take the kebab sticks and thread 4 pieces of fruit on to the first one, alternating between pineapple and mango. Repeat with the other sticks until all the fruit is used up.

Place the coconut palm sugar on a plate and toss the kebabs in it. Heat a large frying pan over a medium-to-high heat and once hot add about 3 or 4 of the fruit kebabs (do this in batches so as not to crowd the pan). Sear the cubes for about 1 minute on each side until they get a nice golden caramel coating, then add a splash of white rum. Burn it off or light it with a lighter to flambé. Clean the pan if necessary and repeat the process with the remaining kebabs and rum.

Put the coconut yoghurt into a side bowl and grate over the zest of the lime, then cut the lime into wedges. Serve the kebabs on a platter, with the coconut yoghurt and lime wedges on the side. Add a few gratings of coconut cream over the top if desired.

MY LIFE IN FOOD

PARIS HILTON

'Never drink diet soda. It shows you have no nerve'

THE TOP THREE

PASTRAMI

Rebecca Seal's quest for the best

Best for diners on the move

BLACKBIRD BAKERY

134 Queens Road, SE15 (020 7732 7711; blackbirdbakerylondon.co.uk)
This branch of the excellent Blackbird Bakery is directly under Queens Road Peckham railway station. As well as selling chewy sourdough to take away, they do a roaring trade in homemade quiche, frittata and salad. The Reuben sandwich is a gloriously messy combination of pastrami, sauerkraut and cheese (£5.90).

Best for carnivores

CAFÉ MISH

1A Shepherd Street, W1 (cafemish.co.uk)
This is a new opening for Mayfair lunchers, and you can tell the kitchen is keen on meat as a sandwich filler – try roast chicken, roast beef or roast lamb, all with posh extras, such as tarragon mayo or confit onions. The Mish pastrami sandwich comes loaded with rose harrisa and melted Emmental (£9.50).

Best for hungover hipsters

MONTY'S DELI

76 Druid Street, SE1 (montys-deli.com)
Monty's salt beef and pastrami is made on the premises using a secret recipe (they also bake their own bagels) and it's consistently lauded as the best in London. Expect towering rye bread sandwiches, stuffed with hand-carved meat, sauerkraut and all the proper dressings and trimmings (£6). Queue, eat and be happy.

RECIPE ILLUSTRATION BY HEATHER GATLEY. OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATHRYN RATHKE. TOP THREE PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN JOYCE. REX FEATURES

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TRAVEL

ME AND MYANMAR

Nick Curtis discovers that life on board a river boat isn't all smooth sailing

Edited by **Dipal Acharya**

Eventful, exciting, stirring – I'm trying to find the right word to sum up my recent cruise on Myanmar's Chindwin river, which ended with the evacuation of the ship amid Cyclone Komen. Sanctuary Retreats' sumptuous vessel *Ananda*, which has 44 staff serving a maximum of 42 guests in all-balcony suites, can only sail on the relatively shallow Chindwin during the rainy season. When I was there, the heaviest rainfall for 15 years had caused landslides and floods thought to have affected around 330,000 people. The downpour also clogged the boat's water filtration systems – resulting in the air-con and showers being taken out of action – and leaving it threatened by whirlpools and rapidly rising water levels. But thanks to the resourcefulness of the boat's staff, most of us enjoyed the trip hugely – emergencies included.

Myanmar, from royal Mandalay to colonial Yangon to the crushingly poor rural areas near northern Homalin, was a heady jumble of architectural styles, rain, wood smoke and diesel fumes – plus an endless array of pagodas and monasteries, whose richly gilded domes and Buddhas were in sharp contrast to the country's poverty. The people themselves were beguiling, waving at us, taking photos of – and endlessly questioning – these weird, giant white people in their midst.

After a whistle-stop car tour of Mandalay's sights, organised by the charming Hotel by the Red Canal, we boarded the *Ananda* and soon got into the rhythm of river life. An excellent pan-Asian buffet breakfast and lunch, plus an à la carte supper by Thai chef Sumet Sumpachanyanont, were part of the package, as were some very quaffable local wines, so meals were sociable and boozy. Wi-Fi and satellite signals were minimal – traumatic for some guests, liberating for me.

Most of the first seven days involved visits amid torrential rain to remote villages, chaotic markets, temples or gobsmacking sights such as the 31-storey Buddha of Bodhi Tataung, followed by a few hours steaming to the next mooring. Onboard activities included cookery classes, talks, and a screening of *The Lady*, Luc Besson's biopic of Myanmar's sainted opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. The spa offered excellent massages and beauty treatments. I spent an hour or two every day on my balcony, watching the scenery scroll by like a widescreen arthouse movie, vast grey river and vast grey sky framing lush jungle, rickety villages and temples.

The scenery scrolled by like a widescreen movie, vast grey sky framing lush jungle

Above *The Ananda*
Left *Pan-Asian cuisine*
Below *The Buddha of Bodhi Tataung*

CHECK IN

Regent Holidays offers a 17-night trip to Myanmar from £5,450pp, including international flights, a ten-night Chindwin cruise from Bagan to Mandalay on Sanctuary Ananda (sanctuaryretreats.com) and three nights' hotel accommodation in Yangon and Mandalay (regent-holidays.co.uk)

But as the landscape got more dramatic and rocky, so did the sailing conditions. At rain-lashed Sitthaung, historic remnants from an Anglo-Japanese Second World War battle were submerged, and we retreated to the village chief's hut. At Masein, the crew hired boats for an exhilarating glimpse of the rooftops and pagodas poking up above the tide.

Heading downstream the next morning, we were jarred awake as the ship slewed into the first of three large whirlpools. Later, during a brief burst of sunshine, we hit the second and the sundeck tilted sharply. We laughed it off, but an hour after that we had to evacuate the boat – before it hit whirlpool number three – via the no-frills support vessel. When we reached Monywa, Sanctuary staff magicked up a hotel; we then spent two nights at the country-clubbish Hotel at Tharabar Gate in Old Bagan, from whence we explored some of the region's 2,000 temples.

On my last day I flew from Bagan to Yangon for a ride on its rickety commuter train, a walk around its remaining colonial buildings and a glimpse of the towering gold Shwedagong Paya, before returning home. Having never been east of India – or indeed, forced to abandon a ship – my Myanmar trip was a huge adventure. Would I go back and sail with Sanctuary again? Emphatically yes and yes. **ES**

KEN HAYDEN. BRUNO MORANDI/GETTY IMAGES

GIZZI ERSKINE

The TV chef goes walking in Wapping and gets up to no good with the Klaxons' Jamie Reynolds

Interview by **Samuel Fishwick**

Home is...
Just off Columbia Road. It's so old-worldly with all its independent shops.
Best place for a first date?
A walk along Wapping canal in the winter.
Most romantic thing someone's done for you?
Five months ago I stumbled into Jamie Reynolds from the Klaxons while we were both waiting for the Eurostar at King's Cross. He ended up taking the train with me. We've been together ever since.
Best meal?
Brawn on Columbia Road (below) – for the oysters.

Building you'd like to buy?
Wilton's Music Hall. I'd redecorate it with 1960s furniture and modern art, then have really atmospheric parties.
Last play you saw?
Jerusalem at the Royal Court with Mark Rylance (right).
What would you do as Mayor?
Throw Hackney's new licensing laws out the window, because it's crazy to close bars at 11pm.
Earliest memory?
Scoffing lemon sorbet at Topo Gigio, an Italian restaurant on Kingston Road, when I was eight.

First thing you do when you arrive back in London?
Take a night-time drive past the Houses of Parliament. Ten years ago that drive convinced me not to move to LA.
Favourite shops?
Selfridges and Liberty; William Vintage on Marylebone Street for classic couture; Broadway Market butcher Hill & Szrok for meat and Organic Food for vegetables.
Who do you call when you want to have fun?
Jamie is my sidekick. We get up to lots of mischief.
Favourite discoveries?
Maltby Street Market in Bermondsey for the incredible wine and food stalls.
Best thing a London cabbie has said to you?
They're all unprintable.
Biggest extravagance?
Black cabs. I prefer supporting London cabbies to taking Ubers.
Favourite pub?
The Royal Oak on Columbia Road (below). It's got a good mix of Cockneys and beardy trendies.

Building you'd like to be locked in overnight?
The Hunterian Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields (above) has an amazing collection of specimens from the Royal College of Surgeons. I'd love to own one of the pickled baby pigs.

Ever had a run-in with a London policeman?
When I was a kid I was booked for setting off fireworks, which I had nothing to do with. I was a proper street punk, so they could have got me for so much else.
Best place to let your hair down?
Street Feast, which has a party atmosphere. Start off with a glass of fizz from Street Vin and work your way through Bleecker St (burger, left), Smokestak and Le Bun.

Best place for a nightcap?
Ladies & Gentleman, a gin bar in a WC in Kentish Town. I had the most amazing Piña Colada there.
Best piece of advice?
'Always be yourself.' Every time I've second-guessed what people want from me I've got it wrong.
Last album you bought?
Are You Satisfied? by the Slaves. It's original 1960s garage punk.
Who's your hero?
My mum Maria. She brought three girls up on her own and taught us to have self-belief.
What do you collect?
Vintage salt and pepper shakers. I've got a set of girls with beehives and a pair of burgers.
Gizzi's Healthy Appetite is out now (Mitchell Beazley, £25)

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